

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system in which a service providing company rents to each of a plurality of different individual contractors at least one information electric appliance based upon contracts between the service providing company and the plurality of different individual contractors, wherein the at least one information electric appliance enables sending of data indicative of at least electric power consumed ~~thereby~~ for each information electric appliance to a rent managing server of the service providing company through a communication line and also enables receipt from the rent managing server of data relating to rent due to the service providing company by the different individual contractors based upon the contract ~~for the at least one each~~ information electric appliance which includes an amount corresponding to the electric power consumed ~~thereby~~ by each information electric appliance so that the service providing company receives from the plurality of different individual contractors payment of the rent and pays to an electric power company an amount corresponding to the total consumed electric power of all of the rented information electric appliances of the plurality of different individual contractors.

22. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 21, wherein the service providing company contracts with the electric power company to pay for electric power consumed by the rented information electric appliances of the different individual contractors based upon rates for the total consumed electric power of the rented information electric appliances of the plurality of different individual contractors.

23. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 21, wherein the data sent by the at least one information electric appliance to the rent managing server further includes information relating to at least one of manufacture and use of the at least one information electric appliance.

24. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system in which a service providing company rents to a plurality of different individual contractors a plurality of information electric appliances based upon contracts between the service providing company and the plurality of different individual contractors,

wherein at least one of the plurality of information electric appliances rented by respective individual contractors enables sending of data indicative of at least electric power consumed by each of the plurality of information electric appliances of the respective individual contractors to a rent managing server of the service providing company through a communication line, and also enables receipt from the rent managing server of data relating to rent due to the service providing company by the different individual contractors based upon the contract for the plurality of information electric appliances which includes an amount corresponding to the electric power consumed ~~thereby~~ by each information electric appliance so that the

service providing company receives from the plurality of individual contractors payment of the rent and pays to an electric power company an amount corresponding to the total consumed electric power of all of the plurality rented information electric appliances of the plurality of different individual contractors.

25. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 24, wherein the service providing company contracts with the electric power company to pay for electric power consumed by the rented information electric appliances of the individual contractors based upon rates for the total consumed electric power of all of the rented information electric appliances of the plurality of different individual contractors.

26. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 24, wherein the data sent by the at least one information electric appliance to the rent managing server further includes information relating to at least one of manufacture and use of the at least one information electric appliance.

27. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 26, wherein the at least one information electric appliance of respective individual contractors include at least one first information electric appliance which is connected to the Internet, and a second information electric appliance which is connected to said first information electric appliance through a communication line.

28. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 26, wherein the rent managing server arithmetically determines the consumed electric power rate of the leased information electric appliances for the electric power company which supplies electric power to the rented information electric appliances, and enables supplying the electric power company with data relating to the consumed electric power rate through a communication network.

29. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 26, wherein the at least one information electric appliance of respective individual contractors include a first information electric appliance which is connected to the rent managing server of said service providing company through a communication network and a second information electric appliance which is connected to the first information electric appliance through a communication line.

30. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 29, wherein the first information electric appliance enables display thereon of the data relating to the other information the consumed electric power rates of the first and second information electric appliances.

31. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 29, wherein the first information electric appliance enables maintenance diagnosis or replacement diagnosis of the second information electric appliance which is connected to the first information electric appliance through the communication line.

32. (currently amended) An information electric appliance renting system for renting information electric appliances to a plurality of different individual contractors, comprising:

at least one information electric appliance which is rented by a service providing company to respective ones of ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of different individual contractors; and

a rent managing server of the service providing company for managing the rented information electric appliances of the service providing company;

wherein the at least one information electric appliance has communication means for sending data including electric power consumed ~~thereby for each information electric appliance~~ to the data rent managing server, and the rent managing server has communication means for receiving the data sent from each ~~the at least one information electric appliance of~~ rented to the individual contractors so that the service providing company receives from the plurality of different individual contractors, payment of the rent and pays to an electric power company an amount corresponding to the total consumed electric power of all of the rented information electric appliances of the plurality of different individual contractors.

33. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 32, wherein the data sent by the at least one information electric appliance to the rent managing server further includes information relating to at least one of manufacture and use of the at least one information electric appliance.

34. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 32, wherein the service providing company contracts with the

electric power company to pay for electric power consumed by the rented information electric appliances of the individual contractors based upon rates for the total consumed electric power of all of the rented information electric appliances of the plurality of different individual contractors.

35. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 33, wherein the rent managing server includes means for calculating a charge which is to be charged for a contractor renting the at least one information electric appliance in accordance with the data thereof and for calculating the electric power rate which is to be paid to the electric power company in accordance with the data.

36. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 33, wherein the rent managing server records and manages the data.

37. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 33, further comprising an information terminal through which information of the rent is provided, and the at least one information electric appliance, the information terminal and the rent managing server have communication means for communicating the information terminal, communication means for communicating with the at least one information electric appliance and the rent managing server, and communication means for communicating with the information terminal, respectively, and said information terminal has means for recording the data, arithmetic means for arithmetically determining the amount of

consumed electric power from the data, and means for sending the data relating to the arithmetically determined amount of consumed electric power to the rent managing server.

38. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 35, wherein the at least one information electric appliance has operation controlling means for controlling the operation thereof, and the rent managing server has means for obtaining the amount of consumed electric power of the at least one information electric appliance on the basis of control data provided by the operation controlling means and for obtaining a use rate inclusive of an electric power rate which is to be charged for an individual contractor and the electric power rate which is to be paid to the electric power company.

39. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 33, further comprising means for measuring electric power consumed by the at least one information electric appliance, wherein the rent managing server has an arithmetic means for arithmetically determining a use charge inclusive of an electric power rate which is to be charged for an individual contractor and the electric power rate which is to be paid to the electric power company on the basis of an amount of electric power measured by the means for measuring electric power.

40. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 33, wherein said rent managing server enables sending of data

relating to a situation of half-way progress of use of the electric power to the at least one information electric appliance.

41. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 34, wherein the rent managing server enables arithmetic operation in such a way that when the operation result data of the at least one information electric appliance is equal to or smaller than a predetermined amount, the consumed electric power rate is decided as a fixed amount, while when the operation result data of the at least one information electric appliance exceeds the predetermined amount, the consumed electric power rate is increased in accordance with the data thereof.

42. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 33, wherein the rent managing server includes judgement means for judging the data sent from the at least one information electric appliance, carrying out a judgement of abnormality of the at least one information electric appliance and for judging on a basis of a judgement result whether or not maintenance needs to be carried out.

43. (previously presented) An information electric appliance renting system according to claim 33, wherein the rent managing server includes means for generating a running pattern on a basis of the data sent from the at least one information electric appliance to compare a total cost up to a scrapping processing of the at least one information electric appliance with a total cost up to a scrapping processing of an information electric appliance which is replaceable with the at least



one information electric appliance to execute a judgement of replacement for the at least one information electric appliance.